

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SCCT-01 NEA-10 /085 W

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R 031502Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1825

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES BY POUCH UNN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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EO 11652: DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN ANC LEADERS ASSEMBLE IN LUSAKA

1. SIZEABLE ANC DELEGATION ARRIVED LUSAKA JULY 2 FROM SALISBURY FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH ANC EXTERNAL WING AND ZAMBIAN GOVT. LED BY ANC CHAIRMAN BISHOP MUZOREWA, DELEGATION INCLUDES SECGEN GORDON CHAVUNDUKA; PUBLICITY SECY DR. EDSON SITHOLE; AARON NDABAMBI, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SECY; REV. HENRY KACHIDZA, TREASURER; JOSHUA NKOMO, MORTON MALIANGA, ENOS NKALA, LAZARUS NKALA, JOSEPH MUSIKA, JOSIAH CHINAMANO, WILL MASARURWA, CRISPIN MANDIZVIDZA AND REV. WEBSTER MUTAMBA. GROUP JOINED BY NDABANINGI SITHOLE WHO ARRIVED LUSAKA FROM US SAME DAY. DELEGATION IS TO FLY WITH PRESIDENTS KAUNDA AND KHAMA TO DAR THIS WEEKEND FOR STRATEGY TALKS WITH NYERERE AND SAMORA MACHEL.

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2. MUZOREWA TOLD PRESS THAT INITIATIVE FOR THIS ANC "SUMMIT"

CAME FROM HIM. PURPOSE IS TO RESTORE FRAYING ANC UNITY AND "NO DOUBT" DISCUSS TIMING OF POSTPONED ANC CONGRESS. "FINAL" STAND ON VENUE FOR PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS WITH SMITH ALSO TO BE DISCUSSED.

3. ON HIS ARRIVAL, NDABANINGI SITHOLE CALLED ON ZAMBABWE NATIONALISTS TO CEASE ATTACKING EACH OTHER PUBLICLY FROM FOREIGN CAPITALS--AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO RECENT EXCHANGES BETWEEN JOSHUA NKOMO AND HIS ANC CRITICS WHO HAVE ALLEGED A SECRET DEAL BETWEEN HIM AND IAN SMITH. HE ALSO DEPLORED ATTITUDE OF SOME ANC MEMBERS WHO HAVE SOUGHT TO DISCREDIT ZAMBIAN EFFORTS TO FIND RHODESIAN SOLUTION. SITHOLE DISMISSED AS "USELESS" DAVID ENNALS VISIT TO RHODESIA FOR TALKS WITH RHODESIAN REGIME.

4. AT STATE HOUSE DINNER FOR ANC DELEGATION AND MEMBERS OF RECENTLY SWORN-IN SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO CHITEPO MURDER (LUSAKA 1241), PRES KAUNDA ALSO APPEALED FOR ANC UNITY, WARNING SMITH WILL CONTINUE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NATIONALIST DIVISIONS. AFRICA, KAUNDA SAID, CANNOT AFFORD REPETITION OF ANGLOAN EXAMPLE. INSTEAD, NATIONALISTS MIGHT WELL FOLLOW ZAMBIAN EXAMPLE IN WHICH UNMANAGEABLE MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM HAD BEEN REPLACED BY ONE PARTY POLITICAL SYSTEM.

5. KAUNDA ALSO ANNOUNCED DRAMATIC INCIDENT INVOLVING ALLEGED ATTEMPT BY SMITH AGENTS TO POISON EDSON SITHOLE. ALLEGEDLY, SITHOLE WAS SERVED POISON-LACED COFFEE AT SALISBURY AIRPORT; HIS SUBSEQUENT DEMISE IN LUSAKA WAS THEN TO BE ATTRIBUTED TO ZAMBIAN GOVT AS ACT OF REVENGE FOR SITHOLE'S CRITICISM OF ZAMBIAN POLICY TOWARD RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT AND CHITEPO MURDERERS. SITHOLE BECAME ILL WHILE IN FLIGHT AND WAS RUSHED IMMEDIATELY TO LUSAKA HOSPITAL WHERE HIS CONDITION DIAGNOSED AS POISONING. HE IS EXPECTED TO RECOVER.

6. COMMENT: THIS IS LARGEST GATHERING OF ANC LEADERSHIP OUTSIDE RHODESIA SINCE DAR OAU CONFERENCE IN APRIL. THEIR CONSULTATIONS HERE AND UPCOMING TALKS WITH FOUR AFRICAN PRESIDENTS IN DAR THIS WEEKEND COULD BE MAJOR TURNING POINT IN SEARCH FOR POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA, ESPECIALLY IF ENNALS' LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATEMENT THAT CONFERENCE VENUE NO LONGER SERIOUS PROBLEM ACCURATELY REFLECTS SMITH'S POSITION. MUCH WILL DEPEND, HOWEVER, UPON WHETHER RECENT RIFT BETWEEN NKOMO AND OTHERS OVER LEADERSHIP CAN BE AT LEAST PAPERED OVER LONG ENOUGH TO DEVELOP UNIFIED NEGOTIATING STANCE VIS-A-VIS SMITH GOVT WHEN AND IF CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS BEGIN.
WILKOWSKI

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